



The Cochise County Education Connection



CONNECTING THE DOTS IN COCHISE COUNTY

VOL 1, ISSUE 3 -JULY 2018



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The Superintendent's Letter

WELCOME BACK Educators!

IRON SHARPENS IRON

As we journey into another school year, let's "Sharpen" each other, individually and collectively. It is said that "Iron Sharpens Iron, and one person Sharpens

the other." How as a county do we "Sharpen" one another? We Sharpen each other when we become a county that learns and grows together, aligning ourselves through constant feedback.

Our goal is to help build the capacity of our educational system (family members, students, businesses, educators, community members and legislators) to learn together and develop intelligence, ability and a voice that is greater than the sum of our parts.

As we Sharpen each other, we break down silos that enable us to work together towards a common vision.

Our common vision is to provide an environment that will foster *"Economic Independence for our Students and Economic Success for our County."*

We are blessed to have many local and state organizations willing to host and share important information that will foster our future growth.

We are "Sharpening" each other through various conferences, training and meetings offered throughout the county. We have formed educational advisory councils, created new alliances and have become part of each other's committees.

Let's continue our momentum to work toward our common goal of learning together as we "Sharpen" each other each other for the success and sustainability of our county.



Have you ever wondered about some of the responsibilities of the Cochise County Superintendent?

Meet Our Staff

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPKpisAaBvY&feature=youtu.be...>

Some of your questions may be answered, if you have any additional questions, please let me know. Have a wonderful day!

Opportunities for Students, Teachers and Administrators



Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program

We have great news about the voluntary Student Loan Relief Benefit we offer. The impact on our district staff has been tremendous! Here are the highlights:

113 have learned about their Student Loan Relief options at no cost

Sixty-nine are able to save through student loan forgiveness options

Eleven of 69 are now saving through loan forgiveness – their monthly payment lowered by an average of 88% (reduced from \$720 to \$81) with an average balance forgiven of \$70,249 (tax-free)

If you are one of the 69 qualified candidates who hasn't finished the process, I strongly encourage you to follow up and start your Student Loan Savings Plan. If you haven't yet checked out Student Loan Relief, take a few minutes now to click the URL below. This benefit is available to help you start saving now.

Ready to start saving too? Visit <https://aacss-cochise.myisls.com/register> and enter code COCHISE

PSLF is available to all full-time employees regardless of position. In

2007, Congress established PSLF to help full-time employees reduce their student loan burden and incentivize them to stay in public service.

After consulting with ISLoan Solutions and verifying your student loan situation, you will receive information regarding refinancing or loan forgiveness programs that may benefit you. If PSLF makes sense, you will receive a student loan savings plan. You may choose to pursue the PSLF program on your own or hire ISLoan Solutions to implement your plan and manage the program for you.

Questions, or trouble logging in? Call 1.513.645.5400, email or visit their website at isloansolutions.com for more information and success stories.

Program Coordinator, Education Liaison Position

This position will be located in Bisbee, Arizona (County Superintendent's Office). The position is a grant-funded, full-time position. The Program Coordinator for this position will implement the activities and functions of the Healthy Cochise County/ Legacy Project to ensure that objectives for CHIP Priority Healthy Eating/Goal 1: Promote Infrastructure that is accomplished in accordance with established priorities, time limitations, funding limitations or other specifications.

Outstanding UA benefits include health, dental, and vision insurance plans; life insurance and disability programs; paid vacation, sick leave, and holidays; UA/ASU/NAU tuition reduction for the employee and qualified family members; state retirement plan; access to UA recreation and cultural activities; and more!

For more information
<https://www.linkagesarizona.org/job/program-coordinator-ed-liaison-bisbee-az/?mode=list>.

Rural Activation and Innovation Network (RAIN)



[Learn about RAIN!](#)

In an effort to increase and promote STEM activities in Cochise County, the RAIN council is accepting mini-grant applications [Click here to apply for the grant](#). Grant amounts of up to \$5,000 have been awarded to local Cochise county groups who believe in providing STEM activities to students and community members. The National Science Foundation made this effort possible through a grant.

[Click here to read what RAIN is about \(Goals and Objectives\)](#)

[Click here to see RAIN's FB page. Please like!](#)

University of Arizona

The University of Arizona is offering scholarships to our teachers, up to \$250, to pay for transportation to the Patterson Observatory and the Garden. Please visit <https://www.universitysouthfoundation.com/grant-application> for an application.

Cochise County Libraries

Cochise County's library users can now access thousands of free online books via a new mobile device app. To explore the Library District's growing collection of digital publications, visit <http://CochiseLibrary.org>, click "Ebooks and More".

Sports Mini-Grants

The Cochise Education Foundation (CEF) is offering mini sports scholarships for students who need assistance with their sports fees. We will provide more information on our Facebook page next month at: <https://www.facebook.com/cochiseefaz/> Please contact Johanna Scott at (520) 432-8952 or jhsconfig@cochise.az.gov for more information.

Student Advisory Council

We are looking for students across Cochise County to be a part of our Advisory Council. Our students must know that their opinions are important. Most meetings will be conducted through video conferencing that can be accessed through cell phone, tablet or computer. We will have at least one face to face meeting; we will have lunch at the superintendent's office in the summer. This will be a great experience to meet other students across the county. Mrs. Johanna Scott, our Outreach Coordinator will be sending invitations to students who have shown an interest in serving on the council. Our first meeting will be September 13, 2018, at 4:00 PM. If you know of interested students, please contact Ms. Johanna Scott (520) 432-8952 or email jhsconfig@cochise.az.gov.

Cochise County, A Google Level One Certified County

Google Workshops for our County Educators

A goal of the County Superintendent's office is to become a Google Level One certified county. We would like to have one educator from each district to be Google Level One Certified. Many of our county educators use Google in their classrooms but may not have known about Google's levels of certification. Our county office is dedicated to providing specific technology professional development to our teachers. We are promoting a series of workshops focusing on Google applications. The first workshop, called Google Basics, is a foundation class geared towards first time Google users. Future workshops will be geared towards intermediate and advanced Google in the classroom applications with the end-goal of teachers taking and passing the Google Level One Certification exam. The first workshop, held on July 11th, was Google Basics.

We are building a list of educators in the county who specialize in Google tools and applications. If you happen to be a Level One, Two, or Innovator, please contact Rose Martinez at rmartinez@cochise.az.gov.

County Updates



Congratulations (Again) Lee Ann Howell

Arizona Rural Teacher of the Year Finalist

It is an honor to announce Lee Ann Howell as the finalist from Cochise County for the 2018 Arizona Rural Teacher of the Year. Lee Ann is a dedicated and quality educator who has shown that teaching is more than a profession, it is a high calling that involves the mind, heart, and soul.

Each year Arizona Rural Schools Association selects a finalist from each county for consideration as the state rural teacher of the year.

Lee Ann Howell personifies everything a great teacher from rural Arizona should be; clearly, she is a great classroom teacher and a leader in her school. I know her colleagues, principal and superintendent could not be more proud of Lee Ann's contribution to education as we are.

The ARSA state rural teacher of the year will be announced from among the county finalists at the Arizona Rural Schools Association annual conference on September 14, 2018. The selected

teacher will go on to compete for the national rural teacher of the year honors.

The Cochise County Superintendent Office and Wes Brownfield, of Arizona Rural Schools Association, wish Lee Ann and the other finalists from other counties the best of luck. We know that teachers spend an enormous amount of their time and lives educating, empowering, and supporting students. Together, we applaud the finalists for their hard work and earning such important recognition.

School Board Election Time!

[Click here for the School Board Election Pamphlet.](#) The pamphlet has links for all the forms you will need to run for school board. Unless you go over the \$1,100 threshold, the only two papers to file with our office are the candidate form and petition. The candidate form will need to be notarized; you can do that yourself or bring it to the Superintendent's office between the hours of 8 AM-5 PM and someone from our staff can notarize for you. Visit our website at www.cochise.az.gov/schools to see our page and view the number of signatures needed. You can also view the school district boundaries by clicking [here](#).

Remember to file your paperwork in our office between July 9-August 8 (by 5 PM), 2018 at our County Schools Office located at 100 Clawson Avenue in Bisbee. We will notarize your candidate form. You may also mail your candidate form to our office at 1415 W. Melody Lane, Building C, Bisbee, AZ 85603. \





Congratulations Johanna Scott

For being elected to the Auxiliary County Fair Board



Upcoming Events

Cochise County Fair – 2018 Theme: “The Little Fair That Could”

Cochise County will host its 94th fair Sept. 27- 30, 2018 at Douglas Fairground. Located at 3677 North Leslie Canyon Road Douglas, Arizona 85607. All information will be sent to the schools by **Monday, August 6, 2018.**

Cochise County Roundtable Advisory Meeting – 2018 Theme: “What have we done and where do we go in education?” Advisory will be held on Thursday, November 29, 2018, at the Windemere Hotel located at 2047 South Highway 92, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635. All must **RSVP by October 15, 2018.** Time of event: 11 AM-1PM.

Innovations in Education Conference – Friday, Jan 25 & Saturday 26, 2019. Presenters, Vendors, and **Sponsors are needed.** Location: UA South Campus Sierra Vista. Time of Event: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM.

Cochise County 2019 Spelling Bee - The Cochise County Spelling Bee will held on Saturday, February 16, 2019, at

Cochise Community College located at 901 North Colombo Avenue, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635 in the Student Union/Community Room. Time of event: 9 a.m. -1 p.m..

Cochise County Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Industry Leaders Conference – 2019 Theme: “Partnerships and Building Relationships” Thursday, Feb 21, 2019. Workshop aimed strategies for collaborating with local businesses within Cochise County. Location: Buena High School Culinary Arts Department, located at 5225 East Buena School Boulevard, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635. Time of event: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. All must **RSVP** by Jan. 15, 2019.

Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet – 2019 Theme: “Super Heroic Teachers” Friday, April 5, 2019, at Thunder Mountain Activity Center also known as TMAC. Located at Building 70525 Irwin, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613. Tickets will be \$40.00. Registration will be online. *All teachers and guests are to come dressed as their favorite superhero. Sponsors needed.*

County Business Managers’ meeting Please mark your calendars: Oct. 23, 2018, Jan. 15, 2019, and April 23, 2019. A reminder email with details will be sent to all business offices prior to each training date.

Contact Mrs. Johanna Scott at (520) 432-8952 or jhscott@cochise.az.gov for further information on all upcoming events.

Arizona Town Hall Criminal Justice in Arizona

The next Town Hall subject will be Criminal Justice in Arizona. Sheriff Dannels will be hosting the upcoming Cochise County meetings in Douglas and Sierra Vista. If you would like to make early comments on this topic, please visit: http://www.aztownhall.org/Upcoming_Town_Hall

Document Downloads

- [**Overview of the Arizona Town Hall Process**](#)

- [**"Criminal Justice in Arizona" Key Facts**](#)
- [**"Criminal Justice in Arizona" Background Report**](#)

To view, the Town Hall Final reports please visit:

http://www.aztownhall.org/110_CTH



Education in the News

Red for Ed Movement

Updated: Jul 05, 2018 11:41 AM

PHOENIX (3TV/CBS 5) -

Arizona’s Red for Ed movement has officially entered a new phase as a fundraising initiative on the November general election ballot. The grassroots group, which brought tens of thousands protesting educators to the state capitol and closed hundreds of schools for six days in April, collected 270,000 signatures to get a proposition to increase education funding on the November ballot.

The initiative, known as "Invest in Ed," hopes to add \$690 million to the state’s education budget by raising taxes on Arizona’s wealthiest residents.

Invest In Ed educators unloaded a truckload of boxes filled with signed petitions outside of the Capitol building Thursday. The petitions were delivered to the secretary of state’s office, which will count and verify the collected signatures. A minimum of 150,000 certified signatures is required for an initiative to be put on the ballot.

Joe Thomas, Arizona Education Association president, says the money raised will go directly to the classrooms, with 60 percent of the new money funding teacher salaries and the remaining 40 percent going to support staff and school programs such as all-day kindergarten.

The proposal would ask voters to decide to double the income tax rates on people who earn \$250,000 per year as a single person or \$500,000 per year as a married couple.

Thomas says using the wealthiest Arizonans as the funding source was recommended after research and polls.

"What the voters told us through years of research, online polling, surveys, direct phone calls, one-on-one, one-on-three conversations, is the money needs to go as close to the classroom as possible, and the revenue stream that tested the highest was the revenue stream that we adopted, which is an income tax," Thomas said.

Supporters say Invest in Ed is a dedicated source of funding that would generate \$690 million for Arizona's schools, unlike a budget proposed by Gov. Doug Ducey



2 Million Dollar Grant Awarded

A County Collaboration between Cochise County Health and Social Services, the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and the Cochise County Superintendent of Schools resulted in the awarding of a two million dollar grant for the building healthy communities project. This is an example of "Connecting the Dots" and Systems Thinking in our County.

"The mission of the project is to promote healthy eating and physical activity with a partnership between Cochise County Health and Social Services, the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and the Cochise County Superintendent of Schools. The grant will be disbursed over the course of three years to help support community efforts for more healthy food options and active living."

"The first is to build upon and develop new collaborations and leadership across the county that focus collectively on improving the social determinants of health; these will be supported with staff and seed money to build and sustain their capacity to do so. The second is to increase the capacity of and access to the food system to reduce disparities in food security and nutrition in the county. Finally, the third is to support the health and wellness of community youth through expanded school health initiatives."

(Quotes are from the SV Herald)

For more information please visit:
https://www.myheraldreview.com/.../article_25f4b67e-7b3c-11e8...

Cochise County ERATE Consortium Meeting

Our first meeting was held at Benson School District, hosted by Superintendent Micah Mortensen. Elfrida, San Simon, Cochise Technology District, Cochise Elementary, Willcox, Apache, Benson, Cochise Library District, Tombstone, Ash Creek, Douglas, Bisbee, and Bowie banded together to form the Cochise County ERATE consortium. The group will benefit greatly from the federal reimbursements for up to 90% of the cost of connectivity services. Thank you to Tim Carter and Frank VanderHorst, from Yavapai County, for your ongoing support of this initiative.

[Click here to watch how the Arizona Broadband Initiative has helped AZ schools.](#)

[Click here for more information regarding ERATE.](#)



Collaborating with Arizona Community Foundation of Cochise County

Connecting the Dots in Cochise County by Collaborating with Arizona Community Foundation of Cochise County (Colin Shannon and Gwen Calhoun). Discussing and preparing a proposal for a grant to support our pre-school students and help them prepare for Kindergarten. We will call it Kindergarten Summer Cruise, a 10-day camp, which will be located at five different campuses in Cochise County next summer.



Cochise Education Foundation (CEF)

President Debra Whiting and Vice-president Ada Parra at the Cochise Education Foundation's Annual Meeting. The primary mission of CEF is to recognize and support teachers.

Cochise Education Foundation is a board composed of individuals interested in the education of our children, and in attracting and retaining quality teachers for our schools. We invite community leaders, business representatives, active and retired teachers, administrators, and college/university personnel to join us.

Cochise County Education Foundation (CEF) meetings are held during the months of July, September, November, January, March, and May on the 3rd Wednesday of the listed months at 4:00 p.m. Location of the meeting is at Cochise County Superintendent's office located at 100 Clawson Avenue, Bisbee, Arizona 85603; and by video teleconference. Contact Mrs. Johanna Scott at (520) 432-8952 for meeting information or email jhscott@cochise.az.gov. Visit CEF Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cochisecefaz/>



Boys and Girls Club Contribution

Ms. Clay was invited to speak to the members of Sky Island Unitarian Church about education. They presented her with an honorarium which in turn was given to Sierra Vista's Boys and Girls club's AMAZING Director, Jay Hamwright.



Community Education Presentation

Ms. Clay was invited to the Sky Island Unitarian Universalist Church to talk about education in Cochise County and Arizona. She also had the opportunity to read my favorite book "You Are Special" by Max Lucado to the children.

Please visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu91pmn6b8U> if you would like to listen to the book. It has a great message for us all!



Expect More Arizona Advisory Council-Douglas

Setting our students – and our community for success

A great time at the Douglas Education Partnership Council Retreat...We are one of two education advisory councils in Arizona in collaboration with Expect More Arizona.

See <https://www.expectmorearizona.org/advisory/>

The Douglas Education Partnership Council is a local collaboration between community leaders and Expect More Arizona to advance a shared vision for education in Douglas and the state. We all believe that every child deserves an excellent education – every step of the way. Together, we will elevate priority education issues to support educators, schools, and students in our community and beyond. By leveraging the expertise, support, and advocacy platform of Expect More Arizona, the Douglas Education Partnership Council seeks to have a greater impact on education in Arizona.

Our Goals:

- *Implement a long-term, sustainable investment for education from the early years through college and career, with a focus on equity and excellence in results
- *Improve teacher recruitment and retention, to include support for raising teacher pay to the national median
- *Support the success of every student by supporting policies and investments aimed at closing the achievement gap,
- *Build a college-going culture that advances attainment locally and helps build a strong economy and quality of life for everyone

Our Facebook is up!

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/DouglasEdCouncil/>

The County Superintendent's office goal is to establish an educational council in various cities in Cochise County - Sierra Vista is next. We will be meeting with the steering committee in August. Stay tuned for more information!

To learn more, contact Selena Llamas at Selena@expectmorearizona.org or <https://www.expectmorearizona.org/>



In case you were wondering...

From Arlene Cumberbatch, Jail Educator: Stay out of my classroom

From Nikki Madden, Accountant: Mark your calendar, our next business meeting is in October

From Rose Martinez, Deputy Superintendent: It is tax rate and election time! We are receiving petitions and candidate forms in our office. I am also working with individual school districts on their tax rate forms for FY19. In addition, I will be the instructor for a future Google Basics workshop to be held quarterly. Stay tuned for future dates in October 2018, January (Innovations in Education Conference), and April 2019.

From Cindy Morales, Superintendent Secretary: For our homeschooling families, our homeschool resource center is open. We also have homeschool parents who have agreed to become homeschool mentors.

From Debbie Prow, Business Manager: Don't forget to get your grant completion reports ready.

From Johanna Scott, Outreach Coordinator: School is almost back in session that means the Cochise County Fair is right around the corner! The 2018 Fair theme is "The Little Fair That Could." Please get your paperwork and artwork ready. We will accept entries at the Fair all day September 25, 2018. Make it a class outing and join us. We are excited and expecting countywide participation.

Hails and Farewells

Hails

A Big
WELCOME
to our new District Superintendents!

Superintendent Kelly Glass – Sierra Vista Unified School District

Superintendent Mark Goodman -- Ft. Huachuca Accommodation School

Superintendent Arlene Kennedy -- St. David Unified School District

Superintendent Ana Samaniego -- Douglas Unified School District

Farewells

We are sad to see you go,
THANK YOU
for all you have done for us!

Superintendent Kris Hagerl – Sierra Vista Unified School District

Superintendent Juan Franco – Naco Elementary School

Superintendent Ron Aguillo – Douglas Unified School District



Contact Us

Jacqui Clay: County Superintendent – jclay@cochise.az.gov

Rose Martinez: Deputy Superintendent – rmartinez@cochise.az.gov

Arlene Cumberbatch: Jail Educator – acumberbatch@cochise.az.gov

Nikki Madden: Accountant – kmadden@cochise.az.gov

Cindy Morales: Superintendent/Office Secretary – clmorales@cochise.az.gov

Debra Prow: Office Business Manager – dprow@cochise.az.gov

Johanna Scott: Outreach Coordinator – jhscott@cochise.az.gov

Mailing List

We would like to keep in touch and communicate better with our community; we have a Superintendent's mailing list where we will send educational updates as we receive them. If you would like to be part of this mailing list please contact Mrs. Cindy Morales, our secretary at: clmorales@cochise.az.us.

Please visit us on:

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/CochiseCountySuperintendent/>

Webpage
<https://www.cochise.az.gov/schools/home>